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REF :

**CABLE SEC. SUGGESTS ADDITIONAL DISSEM TO: 4/PB*

1. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES DISCUSSIONS WITH WHITE HOUSE STAFFERS MR. WILLIAM L. STEARMAN AND DR. PHILIP ODEEN.
2. IN RESPONSE TO STEARMAN'S REQUEST FOR WHAT COULD BE DONE IMMEDIATELY IN VIETNAM TO IMPROVE U.S. INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY POSTURE, AND WHETHER EMERGENCY INCREASE OF PERSONNEL WOULD BE OF HELP, COS REPLIED THAT AGENCY, MILITARY AND CORDS HAVE DIFFERENT PROBLEMS. AS FAR AS AGENCY CONCERNED, WE DO NOT NEED ADDITIONAL HELP AT THIS TIME. REDUCTIONS CONTEMPLATED FOR FISCAL 73 DO NOT YET EFFECT OUR PERFORMANCE AND SEE NO NEED TO ASK FOR REVERSAL OF AGREED CUTS. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT WE ARE NOT IN SAME POSITION AS FOLLOWING TET 68. BOTH ANALYTICAL CAPABILITY IN SAIGON AND REPORTING FROM PROVINCES LESS AS RESULT CUMULATIVE REDUCTIONS. THIS MUST BE CONSIDERED WHEN LEVYING NEW REQUIREMENTS.
3. WITH RESPECT TO MILITARY, UNLESS CURRENT REDUCTION

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PAGE 2 **SECRET**

TRENDS REVERSED U.S. MILITARY INTELLIGENCE INCLUDING COMINT WILL BE DOWN TO SKELETON SIZE BY JUNE 73. BECAUSE MILITARY PHASE DOWN PATTERNS, SAFE PREDICT THAT LITTLE WORK WILL BE DONE BY MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AFTER END OF CALENDAR YEAR 72. THIS WILL LEAVE SERIOUS GAPS, PARTICULARLY IF WE CONTINUE TO FACE SITUATION IN WHICH AMERICAN AIR FORCE INVOLVEMENT AND MILITARY ADVISORY PERSONNEL CONTINUE.

4. WITH RESPECT TO CORDS, WHILE PLANNED CUT OF CIVILIANS MAY BE DIGESTIBLE, REDUCTION OF CORDS MILITARY FROM 3000 TO 1200 BY END OF CALENDAR YEAR WOULD IN EFFECT ELIMINATE MOST OF DISTRICT LEVEL COVERAGE AND WILL MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE ANY REALISTIC FEEL OF WHAT HAPPENS IN COUNTRYSIDE. AS MINIMUM CORDS AND A.I.D. EFFORT WILL HAVE TO BE REVIEWED IN TERMS OF MOST PRESSING PRIORITIES. REMAINING FORCE CANNOT HANDLE EFFECTIVELY ALL THAT IS BEING HANDLED NOW.

5. IN RESPONSE TO MR. STEARMAN'S URGING FOR MORE DIRECT INTERROGATION OF NORTH VIETNAM POW'S BY AMERICAN PERSONNEL AND BETTER EXPLOITATION OF CAPTURED DOCUMENTS,

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COS POINTED OUT NOT ONLY THAT

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*APPLY, BUT THAT LACK OF SMOKE NAMESE SPEAKING AMERICAN INHIBITS

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SUCH EFFORTS. ASKED FOR REASON FOR SHORTAGE, WE INDICATED THIS RELATED BOTH TO LACK OF LONG TERM PLANNING ON INTEL COVER^{AGE} IN VIETNAM AND ALSO TO PRESENT POLICIES ON NOT ADVANTAGING FAMILIES WHICH IN EFFECT PRECLUDES KIND OF CONTINUITY WHICH WOULD ENCOURAGE LEARNING OF DIFFICULT LANGUAGE

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6. AFTER TWO HOURS TALK STEARMAN HAD TO BREAK OFF BECAUSE HIS PLANE DEPARTING.

7. MR. ODEEN MET WITH COS 16 AND 20 APRIL. FIRST ^{CNS} DISCUSSION DEVOTED TO BRIEFING ON MILITARY SITUATION. SECOND SESSION OF ABOUT ONE HOUR DURATION BEGAN WITH ODEEN ASKING MUCH THE SAME QUESTIONS WHICH WERE POSED BY STEARMAN. WHEN EXPLAINED THAT GROUND ALREADY COVERED AND THAT STEARMAN TOOK NOTES, ODEEN ASKED ONLY FOR NUTSHELL SUMMARY. ODEEN INDICATED THAT IT IS LIKELY THAT PROPOSED REDUCTION OF U.S. COMINT CAPABILITY WILL BE REVIEWED.

8. ODEEN QUESTIONED FUTURE OF PHUNG HOANG PROGRAM. COS STATED THIS SETTLED AS GVN MADE DECISION TO PHASE OVER PHUNG HOANG ACTIVITIES INTO NATIONAL POLICE COMMAND. THIS LED TO DISCUSSION PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORS' ROLE. COS NOTED

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PAGE 4 SAGION 47669 S E C R E T

THERE WAS CERTAIN ANOMALY INSOFAR AS PRIMARY AND MOST URGENT TASK OF NATIONAL POLICE COMMAND WAS TO FIGHT SUBVERSION AS PART OF BROADER PACIFICATION PROGRAM. YET U.S. PUBLIC SAFETY HAS NEITHER REPORTING NOR ADVISORY ROLE. TING IN FACT AID IS TAKING POSITION THAT THEY HAVE CONCERN WITH COUNTER SUBVERSION. THUS BIGGEST U.S. MANPOWER INPUT TO NATIONAL POLICE DISCLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT IS OBVIOUSLY MOST PRESSING POLICE TASK. GP-1

S E C R E T

C/S Comment: ***Suggested that COS get together with White House staffers Mr. Stearman and Mr. Odeen for review on SigInt problem and matters related thereto.